

## REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. The Examiner has issued a species election requirement in this case. The Examiner, finding independent claim 1 to be generic, contends that the claims are readable on various allegedly patentably distinct species of the claimed invention in view of (i) the air-discharge/dryer device embodiments and (ii) the changeover-valve device embodiments -- namely, with respect to the air-discharge/dryer device, Species 1-5 directed to the embodiments of the present invention depicted in Figs. 1 and 6-9, respectively, and, with respect to the changeover-valve device, Species 1-4 directed to the embodiments of the present invention depicted in Figs. 1 and 10-12, respectively. The Examiner, relying on PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 rather than U.S. statutory authority, requires that Applicant elect one of the foregoing Species 1-5 with respect to the air-discharge/dryer device embodiments, and one of Species 1-4 with respect to the changeover-valve device embodiments of the claimed invention for immediate prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

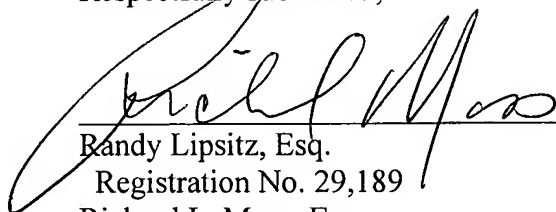
In compliance with the election requirement (notwithstanding that it is, with all due respect, inappropriately grounded on PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2), Applicant provisionally elects Species 1 with respect to the air-discharge/dryer device embodiments (*i.e.*, Fig. 1) and Species 1 with respect to the changeover-valve device embodiments (*i.e.*, Fig. 1) and the claims readable thereon for immediate examination. Applicant identifies claims 1-23 as being readable on both the elected Species 1 for the air-discharge/dryer device embodiments (*i.e.*, Fig. 1) and on the elected Species 1 for the changeover-valve device embodiments. This election is made without traverse and without prejudice, and with the understanding that the features depicted in Figs. 2-5, 13 and 14 are encompassed by the election.

Early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorneys at the telephone number set forth below if it will advance the prosecution of this case.

No fee is believed due with this Reply. Please charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Lipsitz", is written over a horizontal line.

Randy Lipsitz, Esq.

Registration No. 29,189

Richard L. Moss, Esq.

Registration No. 39,782

Attorneys for Applicant

KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036

(212) 715-9100